

future correspondence, please, to the following address;

The Prime Minister
Mr Tony Blair, MP
10 Downing Street
London.”

No, We've Not Forgotten...

...that the following Y10 students attended the university summer school, taking part in lectures and group work in engineering, careers and science. I am reliably informed that they were “mature and well behaved” and are now considering higher education. The students involved were;

Taslima Ali, Reuben Benny, Naomi Bolt, Charles Burke, Hayley Clarke, Kane Dunn-Thomas, Matthew Edwards, Kayleigh Gemmell, Ciaran Grundy, Zara Isaac, Rachel Ibram, Sarah Kaar, Amy Linney, Joshua Logan, Jessica Nightingale, Jamal Reid, DeNiro Robinson, Reece Samuels, Chevonne Smith, Marcel Sterling and Bernard Williams.

And Finally...

...the introduction of a new and much more demanding quiz! Each Friday, there will be a question based on an article that has appeared in this week's newspapers.

Today's question is based on the following news story;

“They look alike, but there are 300 species in Britain. They are attracted to light so they bounce around the windows. They have a tendency to rest during the day and could be up against the front door in the morning but you won't see them again until the evening. They are completely harmless and only live for around three days as adults but are a little bit frightening because they look spidery and they fly in your face and don't have much direction.”

Question: What is being described? Only one answer per person allowed. 1st and only prize, a box of chocolates.

22nd September 2006

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SCHOOL AIM

“ To provide a Christian environment in which young people are safe, secure, cared for and happy, and are able to develop into articulate, confident and well qualified citizens of the world.”

Freshers' Fair

This afternoon, over 250 Y7 students packed into the Drama Hall and adjacent canteen to decide which of the many after school activities they would like to pursue. In all, seventeen clubs and societies were advertising their wares, including;

Basketball	Design Technology	Science
Chess	Drama	Ski Course
Christian Club	English Book Club	Swimming
Christmas Cookery Club	Homework Club	Urban Graphics
Computer Club	Music	Young Gardeners' Club
Dance	Physical Education	

This marvellous event, based on the idea of the university “Freshers' Week” only takes place when boys and girls have experienced a full cycle of the two week timetable, and are able to make informed decisions about their hobbies and interests.

We were joined, this afternoon, by many parents who were able to supply sound, sensible advice to their sons and daughters. The only sad part of the afternoon was that Years 8 – 11 had to go home early to make the event possible!

Manchester Schools' GCSE Results, 2006

Last week, Manchester Headteachers were given the 23 high schools' provisional GCSE examination results. I don't think it would be fair to publish other schools results here, but I do think it is appropriate to report our specific headline figures;

- ◆ 80% of Trinity students gained 5+ A* - C grades. The average for all Manchester schools' was 47%
- ◆ 99% of Trinity students gained 1+ A* - C grades. The average for all Manchester schools' was 91%
- ◆ 56% of Trinity students gained 5+ A* - C grades including English and Mathematics. The average for all Manchester schools' was 27%
- ◆ Of the 23 Manchester high schools, Trinity's results were the 2nd best. The best results were gained by King David High School.
- ◆ Our overall results, therefore, were not only significantly above Manchester averages in all categories, but well above national averages.

Setting a Positive Scene

We are now half way through the rota of evenings for Y7 – 11 parents and pupils at which strategies are discussed to help everyone do well in lessons this year. The key factors are;

- Students of all abilities who are prepared to work hard.
- Teaching which interests, motivates and captures the imagination of students.
- Parents who monitor their son's or daughter's work and show a real interest in their progress.

As they say, "it's not rocket science" but, as parents, do you do the following;

- Look at homework when it has been completed and ask questions about it?
- Have discussions about schoolwork with your child which are "open" rather than "closed". Don't ask questions which require a single word answer. For example, in geography ask "How is a glacier formed?" rather than "Name one country where glaciers are found." Such questions allow students to show what they understand, rather than reciting facts.
- Do you create a suitable learning environment at home? For example, so

that your child is able to concentrate fully on homework rather than being distracted by noise and pictures.

Remember the motto; "Those who fail to prepare must prepare to fail." Make sure it isn't you!

Ramadan Arrangements, 2006

As in recent years, Trinity will provide a room where Muslim students who are fasting during the Holy Month of Ramadan can spend their lunchtimes. This year, students on both early and late lunch should go to the Meeting Room in the Terry Waite Centre.

Prayers will be led in school on Fridays so there will be no need for any student to leave school early during Ramadan.

We would also ask that students using the Meeting Room should bring a book to read or some work to do so that they can occupy themselves quietly, and that they leave the room clean and tidy after use.

Breakfast Club

For the early arrivals, our library and its computer rooms are open from 7.45 – 8.30 a.m. every morning. Students are welcome to come and work – or just read – in a warm, supportive environment. If students get a little peckish, or have had to rush out without having breakfast, we even cater for that!

The Greer Dining Room is open from 8.00 until 8.25 a.m. Bacon barmes sell at 65p, cereals are 35p. Other healthy food also available. Everyone welcome!

A Petition?

Earlier this week I received the following petition signed by 61 concerned students.

"This is a petition to have nice drinks in the canteen. When students have had hard or energetic lessons they would like to have nice drinks. There was no problem with the drinks we had last year such as Oasis, Slush, Five Alive – nice fulfilling drinks. Please may we have the drinks back?"

My reply;

"Unfortunately not. The government (following on from Jamie Oliver's programmes on schools dinners) have introduced even more stringent rules for the sale of drinks and food. Now, we are not allowed to sell flavoured drink. All